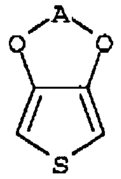
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group.

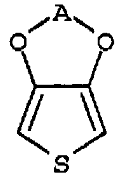
2. (Currently Amended) Thiophene compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a perfluoro-group.

3. (Currently Amended) Thiophene compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents an ethylene group substituted with at least one fluorine atom ~~and~~/or an ethylene group substituted with at least one fluorine atom and at least one alkyl group substituted with a perfluoro-group.

4-6. Canceled

7. (Original) Thiophene compound according to claim 1, wherein said thiophene is 3,3-difluoro-3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]-dioxepine.

8. (Currently Amended) A polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



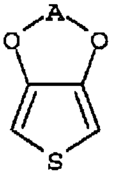
(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group.

9. Canceled

10. (Original) Polymer according to claim 8, wherein said thiophene compound is 3,3-difluoro-3,4-dihydro-2H-thieno[3,4-*b*][1,4]-dioxepine.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):

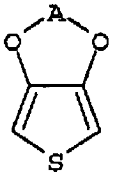


(I)

where A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group.

12. (Original) Process according to claim 11, wherein said process is a chemical or an electrochemical process.

13. (Currently Amended) A solution or dispersion containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

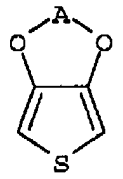
wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, in a liquid medium.

14. (Original) Solution or dispersion according to claim 13 further containing a polyanion.

15. (Original) Solution or dispersion according to claim 14, wherein said polyanion is poly(styrenesulphonic acid).

16. (Original) Solution or dispersion according to claim 13, wherein said liquid medium is an aqueous medium.

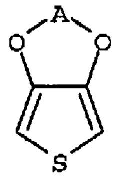
17. (Currently Amended) A process for using a solution or dispersion containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, in a liquid medium for coating an object.

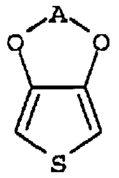
18. (Currently Amended) An ink or paste containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, said ink or paste being capable of being printed.

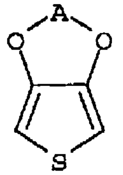
19. (Currently Amended) A first layer containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, said first layer exhibiting electroconductive properties.

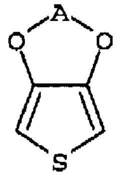
20. (Currently Amended) A second layer containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, said second layer exhibiting antistatic properties.

21. (Currently Amended) A device containing a polymer containing monomeric units of a thiophene compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein A represents a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom or a C_{1-5}-alkylene bridge substituted with at least one fluorine atom and/~~or~~ at least one alkyl group substituted with a fluorine-containing-group, said device exhibiting electrochromic properties.